

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Curtis Gregory Kelsay

Serial No.: 09/491,994

Filed: January 26, 2000

Docket No.: 10990356-2

Title: AN OPTICAL INTERLINK BETWEEN AN OPTICAL TRANSDUCER AND OPTICAL DATA PORT**REMARKS**

The following Remarks are made in response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed July 8, 2004, in which claims 42 and 45-49 were rejected. With this amendment, claims 51-55 have been added, and the preamble of claims 45-49 has been amended. Claims 42, 45-49, and 51-55, therefore, are pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 42, 45, 48, and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pressler U.S. Patent No. 6,005,700 in view of Suzuki U.S. Patent No. 5,857,065. Claims 46 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pressler U.S. Patent No. 6,005,700 in view of Suzuki U.S. Patent No. 5,857,065, and further in view of Sedlmayr U.S. Patent No. 6,034,818. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Independent claim 42 includes "a light pipe assembly optically coupling and providing bi-directional communication between the optical transducer and the optical data port."

The Examiner recognizes that the Pressler patent does not teach a light pipe assembly providing bi-directional communication between the optical transducer and the optical data port nor a receive light pipe adapted to optically receive information via the optical data port and optically transmit the received information to the optical transducer (Detailed Action, page 3, lines 6-11). As such, the Examiner contends that the Suzuki patent teaches an optical transducer configured to transmit and receive information optically, bi-directional communication between the optical transducer and an optical data port, and optically receiving information via the optical data port and optically transmitting the received information to the optical transducer. Thus, the Examiner suggests that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Pressler to "have a receive light pipe...as taught by Suzuki" (Detailed Action, page 3, lines 19-21).

The Suzuki patent, however, does not teach or suggest a receive light pipe nor a light pipe assembly providing bi-directional communication between an optical transducer and an optical data port. Rather, the Suzuki patent merely teaches a printer communication adapter

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51 including a data transmitting and receiving portion 57 comprising an infrared light emitter (infrared-radiation emitting diode, i.e., infrared LED) 61 and an infrared light receiver (photodiode) 63, wherein an infrared filter 65 is provided in front of the infrared LED 61 and the photodiode 63 (Fig. 1; col. 2, lines 44-48). As such, the photodiode 63 of the Suzuki patent converts optical data output as infrared pulse signals into electrical signals, and the infrared LED 61 of the Suzuki patent emits a predetermined response data as infrared pulse signals (col. 2, lines 48-52). However, neither the infrared LED 61 nor the photodiode 63 constitute, nor does the printer communication adapter 51 and, more specifically, the data transmitting and receiving portion 57 of the printer communication adapter 51 include a light pipe or a light pipe assembly.

Thus, modifying the Pressler patent by the Suzuki patent, in the manner suggested by the Examiner, would not overcome the shortcomings of the Pressler patent and, therefore, would not result in the present invention. Applicant, therefore, submits that the combination of the Pressler and Suzuki patents does not teach or suggest each and every element of the present invention as claimed in independent claim 42.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claim 42 is patentably distinct from the Pressler and Suzuki patents and, therefore, is in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, as dependent claims 45-49 further define patentably distinct claim 42, Applicant submits that dependent claims 45-49 are also in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 42 and 45-49 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that claims 42 and 45-49 be allowed.

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In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 42, 45-49, and 51-55 are all in a condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either Gregg W. Wisdom at Telephone No. (360) 212-8052, Facsimile No. (360) 212-3060 or Scott A. Lund at Telephone No. (612) 573-2006, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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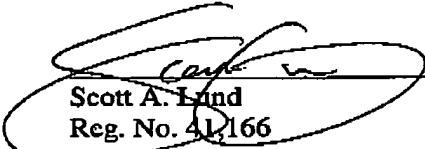
Respectfully submitted,

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By 
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